

# the Gateway

Vol. 61, No. 12, June 17, 2005, Rhein-Main AB, Germany

USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003



## News Brief

### ***Change of command***

Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey relinquished command of the 435th Air Base Wing to Col. Kurtis D. Lohide in a ceremony at Hangar One on Ramstein Air Base Thursday.

Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte, Vice Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, presided.

Colonel Lohide comes to Ramstein from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where he was commander of the 99th Mission Support Group.

## *I salute you*

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to all the men and women of Team Rhein-Main for your unwavering dedication and support through countless volunteer hours.

Without volunteers our community would not thrive and we would not enjoy the numerous programs and activities that we do.

Last month the Rhein-Main Family Support Center hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in Mörfelden. It was a great event and expressed the thanks of our entire community.

Volunteers have spent thousands of hours at various places around base. The list is long but one thing is certain: Rhein-Main still needs your help.

I encourage everyone to find a place to volunteer. As closure nears and our work force decreases, we'll need you more than ever. Thank you again for your support!

*Col. Brad Denison  
469th Air Base Group, commander*



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Barton

### **New digs**

*Members of the Russian air force receive a tour of Spangdahlem Air Base recently during their visit to Germany as part of a U.S. Army bilateral exercise called TORGAU 2005. In the background is the new home of the 726th Air Mobility Squadron, to be led by Lt. Col. James Kirk, currently director of operations for the 726th AMS at Rhein-Main. The squadron will transition to Spangdahlem in September.*

## **Wing commander says farewell**

**By Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey**  
435th ABW and KMC commander

Every commander who takes the flag knows that one day that flag must pass to the next commander. We don't think about it much when we take the flag, as the command is full of possibilities and new challenges, and the day of passing it on seems so very far away. That time has come for me, to pass on the flag of the 435th Air Base Wing to a new commander, who will surely also come with the expectation of possibilities and challenges.

The start of my command coincided with the start of the 435th ABW, and so we together built a wing identity and added to the previous history of the flag. Others will record the details of that history, but I'd like to highlight a few things that make it stand out for me.

Ramstein presents a higher ops tempo and continuous string of challenges than any place I have ever seen outside a war zone. Added to that is the burden of living with the largest construction program on any military base in the world. Working

———— See **FAREWELL**, Page 3



USAFE

## Airman Information File

June 2005

### Personal Safety Responsibility

Mission accomplishment -- it's the ultimate goal for all our planning, training, and execution efforts within USAFE. Whether it's replacing an electrical conduit, repairing a jet engine, or ensuring someone gets reimbursed for TDY expenses, all of these diverse, daily activities support our combat mission. This is done through the effective employment of our limited resources -- the most precious of which is our people!

We can't effectively accomplish our mission when we don't have the right people and material due to losses. A loss may be associated with combat attrition as we lose people and equipment in direct conflict with the enemy. We may also suffer loss through normal wear and tear, or a natural disaster. However, our primary loss is mishaps, many of which are preventable. This form of loss -- due to unsafe acts, poor judgment, or in some cases willful misconduct -- is unacceptable.

As a military force, we demand individual responsibility and sound judgment in the performance of our assigned tasks -- we expect every Airman to know and do the right thing. Without your job knowledge and adherence to demanding standards, we would not achieve and maintain our status as the world's finest Air Force -- this describes Airmanship. *Excellence in all we do* must extend to our off-duty activities as well.

We occasionally run into trouble when we seek a short-term benefit instead of doing things right. We face pressure to save time, but when we choose to skip a step or rush, the time we gain is limited. We maintain frantic schedules and sometimes try to cram four days of R&R into two. The entire time we take chances, stretch the rules, and fail to give risk its just respect. Do we consider our professional responsibility to our Air Force team when we take unacceptable personal risks? Do we consider the impact on our family if our gambles don't pay off?

Our Air Force mishap history has taught us a great deal about how we are injured or killed. From these lessons we have improved our equipment, instituted training, and evolved our policies and procedures to reduce risk. We will do everything in our power to make our workplaces free from hazards and to provide the tools needed to manage daily risks on or off the job. In turn, all Airmen have the professional responsibility to apply this knowledge...on and off duty.

Airmen taking care of Airmen and first-class Airmanship -- anything less is unacceptable!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doc", followed by a long horizontal stroke.

General Doc Foglesong

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "GMC", followed by a long horizontal stroke.

CMSgt Gary Coleman

*"Bring Your Courage"*

# 20 earn promotion to E-6, E-7

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — Air Force officials have selected 6,630 of 25,454 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant; and 9,116 of 43,379 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant.

The master sergeant selection rate rose 0.10 percent from last year to 26.05 percent, while this year's technical sergeant rate dropped 0.56 percent from last year to 21.01 percent.

Master sergeant selects from the 469th Air Base Group are: **Sergio Gil, Thomas Hall, Jr., Brian McHugh, Victor Odom and Dustin Ruland.**

Technical sergeant selects from the 469th ABG are: **Mark Cave, Michael**

**Jones, David Smith, Jonathan White and Kelli Wright.**

Master sergeant selects from the 726th Air Mobility Squadron are: **Timothy Payne and Dale Teeter.**

Technical sergeant selects from the 726th AMS are: **Christopher Bagarella, John Cottle, Jr. and Jeremiah Traugher.**

Master sergeant selects deployed to Rhein-Main are: **Kenneth Clinton and Steven Wright.**

Technical sergeant selects deployed to Rhein-Main are: **Ronald Martin, Jr., Joshua Mursu and Eric Lebeau.**

"The rates this year are very close to last year's rates, but we have more eligibles this year," said Chief Master Sgt. Dale Kenney, Air Force Personnel Center's enlisted

promotions branch chief here. "The higher eligibility pool gives us the opportunity to promote more individuals."

The average master sergeant selectee score for the 05E7 master sergeant test cycle was 345.81 points. The average master sergeant selectee has 3.81 years time in grade and 17.26 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to master sergeant August 2005 to July 2006.

The average selectee score for the 05E6 technical sergeant test cycle was 313.49 points. The average technical sergeant selectee has 4.63 years time in grade and 11.04 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to technical sergeant August 2005 to July 2006.

*(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)*

## FAREWELL, from Page 1

through the challenges of closing Rhein-Main Air Base while readying Ramstein to host their Gateway mission adds a whole new dimension to the activity here.

Complimenting these challenges is the experience of living in Germany, and working and living daily in a culture different from what most Americans ever get to see.

As commander, I found every element of the ever-changing fabric of life at Ramstein fascinating and rewarding. You, the members of the wing as well as all the other members of Team Ramstein, make it look easy every time, no matter how challenging, no matter how little time you have to make it work, no matter how many last minute changes are thrown your way and no matter how many of you are deployed.

In addition to the wing flag, I am also passing on the KMC commander responsibility. Although there is no flag associated with it, this too is a command filled with challenges and responsibilities, but in this case ensuring the entire American community is supported, that disaster response is managed in partnership with the local communities and the Army, that agreements for solving a variety of interface issues with our communities are negotiated and formalized, to name a few.

Col. Rob Kane, 86th Airlift Wing commander, take on these responsibilities. And so, you will see new changes coming to the wings in order to support that move. Only time will tell how this new organizational construct will work out, but I know you will continue to provide world-class support regardless of the changes in responsibilities and so the outcomes will remain superb.

I could recall thousands of accomplishments of the last 17 months, or dozens of stories, but the most important memory to me will be the people. From the youngest Airman to the

seasoned chief, from the newest second lieutenant to the most senior officers, whether secretaries or admin types or U.S. or local nationals, you are the best.

We have asked you for more at times when it didn't seem possible you could produce it, and you came through every time. I wish I could pass on every compliment, note of thanks, and note of astonishment at the level of service, dedication and helpful attitude they experience here. I get them every day, and every one is due to the unrelenting energy, patience and dedication you bring to work. You are the best, the awards confirm it in one way, but the reaction of visitors makes it personal.

And so I must thank every one of you for all that you do.

Thanks to my commanders, who are both trusted advisors and talented leaders who took our vision to all.

Thanks to the chiefs, who with vast experience and inevitable good sense keep all the commanders, as well as the entire enlisted force, on a solid path to success.

Thanks to the first sergeants, who hold the health of the units in their capable hands, and who help their commanders and me make the right decisions for the future of both troubled Airmen and brilliantly successful Airmen.

Thanks to our civilians, U.S. and German, who balance the military and bring special talents and energy to ensure our support to the mission is unwavering.

A very special thanks goes to the family members, for you keep our workforce, military and civilian, able to meet the demands. And another special thank you to our volunteers, for the KMC has the greatest volunteer spirit I have ever seen, and we literally could not run this place without you.

And, here throughout all as we Americans come and go, thanks from my heart to all the Germans who so warmly welcome us and make this a real home away from home.

I salute you all.



# A legacy of excellence

The story of Rhein-Main Air Base will soon reach its conclusion and our community becomes part of a fondly shared history between the German and American people.

From the Berlin Airlift to the Global War on



**By Lt. Col.  
Katherine Callies**  
469th Air Base Group  
Medical Flight  
commander

Terrorism, Rhein-Main has been integral in shaping world history. Take a moment to remember all the great accomplishments that occurred here and recognize that you are part of a legacy that will endure far

after the closing of this community.

During the Berlin Airlift – dubbed Operation Vittles – U.S. and allied forces worked round-the-clock from June 1948 to September 1949 airlifting desperately needed supplies to the people of Berlin. This action helped ensure a democratic future for the German people and prevented the spread of communism.

Rhein-Main was the focal point for this historically important event.

Long known as the “Gateway to Europe,” millions of U.S. military personnel and their family members have transited through the base.

Aircrews, maintainers and support personnel all worked together to create a safer world. Their achievements are

staggering and represent the commitment to excellence shared by Airmen today and past generations.

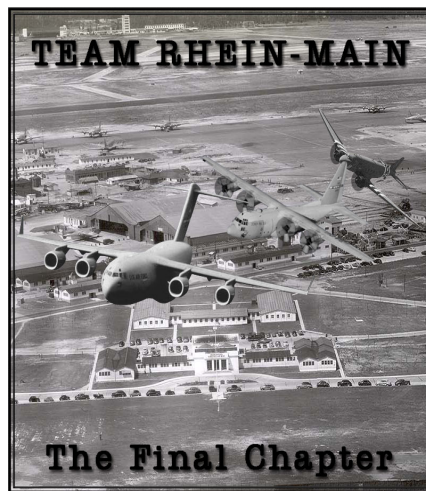
In more recent times, Rhein-Main served as a major hub for U.S. forces deploying and returning home from Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

These operations represented the largest rapid mobilization of U.S. military forces to date.

In addition, base personnel have participated in countless numbers of humanitarian aid missions and currently provide valuable support for the Global War on Terrorism.

For Rhein-Main the last chapter is almost written. It’s important to remember that, although our community will soon close, it will live on in hearts and in our Air Force history.

Rhein-Main has earned its place in history and will be remembered for its legacy of excellence.



*The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.*

*The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.*

*If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil) or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.*

*Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.*

*The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf. If you have any questions, call Public Affairs.*



**Col. Bradley Denison**  
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

**330-7779**

## the Gateway

### Editorial Staff

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office, Rhein-Main AB, Germany. Printing service is provided by ABC Druck, Liederbach. People may submit articles for publication to the public affairs office, Bldg. 347, Room 139,

or email them to [pa@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:pa@rheinmain.af.mil). Submission by deadline does not guarantee publication, however, all articles will be considered. The staff may be reached by calling 330-7804. All photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted.

*The deadline for the June 30  
edition of the Gateway is  
4 p.m. June 23.*

## Warriors of the Week



**Tech. Sgt. Gary Thacker**

**Unit:** 469th ABG Communications and Information Flight

**Time in Air Force:** 13 years

**Time at Rhein-Main:** 2 years

**Duty Title:** NCO in charge, voice communications

**Hometown:** Washington Court House, Ohio

**Hobbies:** Baseball, softball, hunting and fishing

**What has been your best Air Force experience?**

The three years spent at Eielson AFB, Alaska.

**469th Air  
Base Group  
Commu-  
nications  
and  
Information  
Flight**



**Tech. Sgt. Brian McHugh**

**Unit:** 469th ABG Communications and Information Flight

**Time in Air Force:** 16 years, 3 months

**Time at Rhein-Main:** 1 year, 5 months

**Duty Title:** NCO in charge, base computer and network section

**Hometown:** Cheyenne, Wyo.

**Hobbies:** Avid volleyball player, golf and travel

**What has been your best Air Force experience?**

Meeting John Glenn prior to his first and only space shuttle flight.



## Closure Corner

This section is devoted to giving the Rhein-Main Community the most up-to-date information concerning base closure issues. All dates presented in this section are subject to change based on: manpower figures, personnel assignment information and ongoing U.S. Air Forces in Europe coordination.

**Q:** What do I have to do to outprocess from the clinic?

**A:** Military members must stop by the TRICARE office to disenroll. The office will move to the alternate clinic in Bldg. 340 and will be open July 5. Members must also stop by their new TRICARE service center to enroll.

Members must also pick up medical and dental records one day prior to their final-out appointment. (This applies to TDY personnel as well.) Adult family records require a consent form to allow a sponsor to pick them up.

**Q:** What time I can I outprocess at the alternate clinic?

**A:** After July 5, hours will be 10 a.m. to noon and 3 - 4 p.m. For more information call the alternate facility at 330-8165.

**Q:** Can I pick up my family member's records?

**A:** To pick up a spouse's record or the record of a child over the age of 15, there must be a signed release of information form in the record before it can be picked up. Forms are available at the clinic. Family member records can also be mailed to the next duty station.

**Q:** What will happen to my records if I don't pick them up?

**A:** Any records left after Sept. 15 will be shipped to Ramstein and then sent to St. Louis for retirement.

**Q:** Is there anything I should know about receiving care on the local economy?

**A:** All emergency medical bills will be handled by Ramstein after Aug. 15. Members should be prepared to pay up front for all local emergency care. For minor problems, medical personnel suggest using the Heidelberg Emergency Room. If it's a matter of life or death, call 911 on base or 112 from off base. Members should get a copy of any bill and contact the TRICARE Medical Service Coordinator here or at Ramstein the next duty day to start the process for reimbursement. Personnel on temporary duty from the states should contact their home base TRICARE office for reimbursement.



# Cargo hub moves to Incirlik

*AMC transfers mission; brings to close long history of Rhein-Main's contributions to strategic airlift*

**By Senior Airman Jessica Switzer**  
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A new mission kicked off at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, June 1 with the arrival and departure of the first C-17 Globemaster IIIs carrying cargo to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The new mission works on a 'hub and spoke' concept," said Lt. Col. Jim Burton, 728th Air Mobility Squadron operations officer. "It calls for cargo to come into Incirlik from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and go from here to several locations in Iraq. The increase to Incirlik's mission creates a higher ops tempo for the support systems and people who work on and with the aircraft deployed here and requires more aircrews, maintainers and aerial porters to support the new operation."

"The aircrews will be here for around two weeks at a time and the support personnel will be here from anywhere between 30 and 120 days," he continued. "More people on base means there is more workload to support."

The cargo hub mission moved to Incirlik from Rhein-Main, in an effort to conserve Air Force resources.

"It's a fuel and flying time issue," said Colonel Burton. "It is more efficient for the C-17 because the cargo is delivered closer



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

*A C-17 heads to a parking spot at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, shortly after the base stood up a new cargo hub. The C-17 is capable of strategic delivery of cargo to main operating bases or to forward operating locations.*

to Iraq without going to Iraq itself. By moving it here, it is possible to move the same amount of cargo with fewer planes."

The C-17s are not permanently stationed here, the colonel said. They are here from Charleston and McChord air force bases, rotating in and out every two weeks.

"The cargo is supporting troops in Iraq. "It's primarily what we call 'general cargo,'" said Colonel Burton. "It is for sustaining operations in Iraq – things people need to keep their mission going."

Right now, the cargo hub is supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, and has the ability to expand to support Operation Enduring Freedom," he said.



Photo by Capt. Eric Haler

*Members of the 726th Air Mobility Squadron at Rhein-Main load a C-17 from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., for the final direct delivery cargo channel mission from Rhein-Main to Iraq June 3. Since May 1, 2004 the squadron has moved 27,455 pallets consisting of more than 111 million pounds of equipment. Since 2001, there have been 14,392 C-17 departures from Rhein-Main in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom hauling more than 491 million pounds of equipment or twice the weight of an aircraft carrier. More than 150,000 passengers departed Rhein-Main on C-17s and more than 1.6 million have passed through the base.*

## Free bowling

In the spirit of Combat Wingman and "Airmen taking care of Airmen", the 469th Air Base Group Services Flight offers free bowling until the Rocket Bowling Center closes June 25.

Bowling is free to all U.S. ID cardholders. Hours of operation are: noon to 8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; noon to 10 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

Call 330-7219 for more details.

## Craft class

The FSC sponsors a stamping craft class for adults from 6:30 - 9 p.m. Tuesday at Our House, Bldg. 627B-2 in Gateway Gardens.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

## Summer-hire time

A summer-hire in-processing orientation is set for noon to 2 p.m. June 24 at Our House.

Lunch will be provided to summer hires and their supervisors. Supervisors are encouraged to attend from noon to 1 p.m.

Summer-hires begin work June 27.

## Lunch box

The "Lunch Box" is back at the base

## Chapel schedule

The following worship opportunities are offered by the Rhein-Main Chapel:

### ■ Catholic worship:

Sunday Mass - 9 a.m. every Sunday.

Chapel fellowship - 10 a.m.

### ■ Protestant worship:

Chapel fellowship - 10 a.m.

Worship and Kids

Own Church take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



commissary. The box includes a sandwich, chips, drink and snack for \$3.75.

Lunch is sold from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in front of the commissary.

## WIC closure

The Women, Infants & Children Program at Rhein-Main is set to close July 20.

Wellness counselors are currently calling participants to set up final appointments. Counselors can prepared drafts up to three months in advance.

Participants are reminded if they need blood work done for WIC the last day to have blood work done at the base clinic is June 30. The results are good for one year.

## Home buying tips

Anyone interested in buying a home can call the FSC and set up a private consultation. Prospective homeowners can get tips on getting ready for a home purchase, finding the right home at the right price, financing options and more.

Call 330-7992 for more information.

## Kids craft class

The FSC sponsors a T-shirt stamping craft class for kids from 2 - 4 p.m. June 29 at Our House, Bldg. 627B-2 in Gateway Gardens.

Children can have fun stamping designs on free T-shirts of all sizes.

Call 330-7992 to sign up.

## Book, DVD check-out

Our House has books and DVDs available for check-out from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The facility has nearly 500 DVDs, a selection of children's books and nearly 100 adult paperbacks.

Call 330-7913 for more details.

## FSC services

The FSC has a variety of products and services available to make the PCS season go smooth.

Loan locker items such as dish packs, pots and pans kits, play cribs, strollers and more are available for check out.

The Time for Tots room is open for

## Movies at Rhein-Main

**Tonight** - "The Upside of Anger," (R), 7 p.m.

**Saturday** - "Fever Pitch," (PG-13), 5 p.m. and "Monster in Law," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday** - "Sin City," (R), 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** - "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants," (PG), 7 p.m.

**June 24** - "King's Ransom," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**June 25** - "Madagascar," (PG), 5 p.m., and "Fever Pitch," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**June 26** - "Sahara," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**June 28** - "The Honeymooners," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at

[www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp)

children's play time. Parents should call ahead at 330-7913 to make sure there are no classes going on. Parents should also clean up before leaving the facility.

For those who would like to use Our House or Time for Tots facilities outside the normal operating hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays can stop by and check out a key for parties or functions. There's no charge and participants can use the facilities for personal, squadron or club functions.

Call 330-7913 for more details.

## One-on-one

From now until closure, members of Team Rhein-Main can book one-on-one information sessions on the following subjects:

- Finances
- Transitioning
- Relocation
- Readiness
- Family life
- Air Force Aid

Call 330-7992 for more information or to schedule a session.

Ring ring goes the bell

# Schools out forever at R-M

**By Airman 1st Class Eric Donner**  
Public Affairs

Halvorsen-Tunner Elementary and Middle School was packed with students, parents, teachers and former students, for a farewell assembly June 9.

Those in attendance began the ceremony with a hearty rendition of the Pledge of Alliance and ended with a catchy number called the Halvorsen-Tunner Song, written by Jan Pepelnjak, and set to the tune of "This Land is Your Land."

Rhein-Main students have been educated in the area since 1949. The current building was built in 1951 and renamed Halvorsen-Tunner in 1986 in honor of two Berlin Airlift veterans, 1st Lt. Gail Halvorsen, a.k.a. "the Candy Bomber," and Maj. Gen. William H. Tunner, 1st Airlift Task Force commander.

"You've really hit a home run with this entire year – I am very honored to have been part of this great school," said Col. Brad Denison, 469th Air Base Group commander, during the assembly.

In the early years, Halvorsen-Tunner began with about 286 students and 11 teachers. During its prime in the 1990's, more than 1,300 students packed its halls. At the end of the final school year, with base closure on the horizon, student enrollment dropped to 218 students and 45 staff members. Several teachers with more than 15 years of service at the school were recognized during the assembly.

"They (teachers) stay at Halvorsen-Tunner because it is a great place to work and live," said Su Somaini, principal of Halvorsen-Tunner. "Every teacher here has



Photo by Master Sgt. Ray Conway

***Halvorsen-Tunner Elementary and Middle School students join in on the final Pledge of Allegiance in the history of the school during a farewell assembly June 9.***

provided a special something for our students during the year and they are appreciated."

One teacher who found the school a great place to work is Scharlotte Scharnweber, a 5th grade teacher who began at Halvorsen-Tunner in 1968.

"It is a wonderful place to be," said Mrs. Scharnweber. "If the school would be open in September I would be back here teaching." Mrs. Scharnweber will retire this year after 36 years of teaching.

Halvorsen-Tunner has had many different teachers from different cultures teach at the school. Teachers from the German community are no exception.

One of these teachers, Silvia Antony, has been teaching at the school for 20 years

as a foreign language teacher.

"It is very emotional because the school is closing and this is also the end of my 34-year career," she said.

The staff and students made sure the memory of the school will live on as they put together a time capsule during the closing ceremony. Four students chose items they thought would best represent the school to someone who opened the capsule years from now. The capsule will go to the Department of Defense Dependent School System archives in Wichita, Kan.

"I had it all here - great students, great parents, wonderful teachers and base leadership who cared about the school," said Mrs. Somaini, who will also retire. "I'm glad I ended my career here."

## The Final Chapter

This section is devoted to the history and legacy of Rhein-Main and how this storied installation will close with grace and dignity. Look for stories on the history of the base, units stationed here and how the closure of facilities affect the mission. Rhein-Main, the "Final Chapter".

